

a regular letter from our own correspondent in that city, as well as from London and other great centres of medical learning. This will, we hope, place before our readers a useful digest of some of the latest ideas in medical science, with methods of treatment, new inventions, etc., all of which we fear not, will be appreciated by our patrons.

THE CARDIAC RELATIONS OF CHOREA.—Dr. William Osler has carefully re-examined (*Am. Jour. Med. Science*) 110 of the choreic cases treated at the Infirmary for Nervous Diseases between 1876 and 1885. In each case the patient was examined more than two years subsequent to the attack of chorea. He found 43 normal hearts, 53 with organic and 13 with functional troubles. He draws from his study the following conclusions :

1. That in a considerable proportion of cases of chorea—much larger than has hitherto been supposed—the complicating endocarditis lays the foundation of organic heart disease.

2. In a majority of the cases the cardiac affection is dependent on rheumatism, and cannot be regarded as in any way associated with it; unless, indeed, we hold with Bouillaud, that in the disease "*chez les jeunes sujets, le cœur se comporte comme une articulation.*"

3. As the presence of an apex systolic murmur in chorea is usually an indication of the existence of mitral valvulitis, as much care should be exercised in this condition as in the acute endocarditis of rheumatism. Rest, avoidance of excitement, and care in convalescence, may do much to limit a valvulitis, and obviate, possibly, the liability to those chronic nutritional changes in the valves wherein lies, after all, the main danger.

TURPENTINE IN DIPHTHERIA.—Not a few practitioners in this country have strong faith in the beneficial action of turpentine in diphtheria. It will, therefore, be interesting to know the results in fifty-eight cases treated by it by Röse, of Hamburg (*Therap. Monats.; Med. Prog.*). He had a mortality of five per cent. His treatment was as follows:—

He gave oil of turpentine three times a day in teaspoonful doses, mixed with spirits of ether.

A teaspoonful of a 2 per cent. solution of sodium salicylate was also given every two hours. Externally an ice-bag was used, and gargles of a 1 per cent. warm solution of chlorate of potassium. This treatment gave the following results :

1. Rapid lessening of the pulse-rate and of the temperature. 2. Rapid alleviation of the subjective symptoms. 3. Shortening of the duration of the illness. 4. No exacerbation of the local process after the first dose of turpentine. 5. Only once was there danger of suffocation, and tracheotomy was done.

Röse thinks that pencilling the throat, as done in private practice, is generally useless. He uses great caution in pushing the turpentine in anemic cases, and in patients with weak hearts; and excessive cardiac action, from any cause, was carefully treated. The food given in his cases consisted of bouillon, old port wine and milk; and ice and aerated fruit juices were given to quench thirst. The turpentine was discontinued when the patient was free from fever. In ordinary cases doses of from 3 to 5 drachms were used, and no intoxication was seen. In one case paralysis occurred, but the patient recovered under the use of chlorate of potassium.

INFANTILE MARASMUS.—The following conclusions have been arrived at by Dr. Isaac N. Love (*St. Louis Courier of Medicine*) as to the cause of infantile marasmus:—

1. Infantile marasmus is dependent primarily on torpidity and inactivity of the glandular system; and is aggravated by unsuitable, over-abundant, or insufficient food and unsanitary surroundings. 2. It is of the first importance, in treatment, to arouse secretion and excretion, the best remedy being calomel in one-twentieth of a grain doses, with the free administration of water; both of these agents exciting glandular action, stimulating the secretion of the digestive juices, and promoting diuresis and intestinal secretion. 3. "In the matter of diet, mother's milk is the best, and some other mother's milk the next best." 4. In extreme cases, administer soluble foods in the forms of baths, and practise gentle friction and massage, with an occasional bath in water containing a diffusible stimulant.

SPARTEINE, THE NEW HEART TONIC.—The